

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

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FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3727

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 2324

CARACAS FOR RSO

DEPARTMENT FOR A/SY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: RELOCATION OF GEORGETOWN AMERICAN SCHOOL

1. POST HAS DECIDED, WITH CONCURRENCE OF AMERICAN SCHOOL BOARD AND TEACHING STAFF, TO MAINTAIN TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOL AT AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE UNTIL CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS. WHILE PROVISIONS HAD BEEN MADE FOR RELOCATING THE SCHOOL BACK TO THE ORIGINAL SITE, I.E. RADIO UNIT IS AVAILABLE, FENCE IS REPAIRED AND POLICE COOPERATION FOR SURVEILLANCE AT THE SCHOOL COULD BE OBTAINED, POST BELIEVES IT PRUDENT TO MAINTAIN CURRENT RELOCATION FOR BRIEF FOUR-WEEK PERIOD UNTIL HOLIDAY VACATION. MOREOVER, THIS WILL GIVE ADDITIONAL BREATHING SPACE OF SEVERAL MORE WEEKS BEFORE CLASSES RESUME AFTER THE NEW YEAR.

2. FYI: INSTRUMENTAL IN THIS DECISION WAS INFORMAL CONSULTATION WITH JAMES MENTORE, CHIEF OF GEORGETOWN SPECIAL BRANCH, WHO COUNSELED AGAINST SCHOOL RETURNING TO ITS SITE AFTER SUCH A BRIEF RELOCATION. MENTORE, HOWEVER, MADE IT CLEAR HIS OPINION WAS PURELY PERSONAL AND NOT BASED ON ANY HARD SECURITY INFORMATION. HE SIMPLY FEELS THAT ALTHOUGH CUBANA AIR CRASH AFFAIR HAS COOLED, BASIC SITUATION REMAINS
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UNCHANGED.

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